

NEWSPLASH

A Publication of the SC DHEC Bureau of Water • Summer 2005

Reliable Resources

Finding the Answers You Need

by Jim Ridge, Recreational Waters Compliance

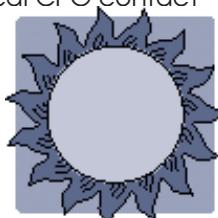
As you can imagine, DHEC staff are literally flooded with pool questions during the summer months. These questions cover many different subjects. The items listed below provide resource ideas and contact information to help you find answers to your most difficult pool questions.

Water Quality Problems

Some pool operators experience difficulty in maintaining water quality. If this is true at your facility, you might try contacting a local pool service company. A local business that specializes in commercial pools will have a lot of information about typical water problems and solutions. Most will be happy to answer your questions without cost. Some pool professionals offer water testing on site for a modest fee.

Pool Operator Certification

Questions concerning Certified Pool Operator (CPO) licensing or test information should be directed to the SC Labor Licensing and Regulation, Environmental Certification Board. The general information number is (803) 896-4430. It may also be possible to get local CPO contact



information if you are looking for a certified pool operator.

Pool Inspections

The local DHEC environmental office can assist you with questions about pool inspections specific to your facility. Generally covering two to four counties, each office has a recreational waters program manager that can handle questions about your facility inspections and the inspector. You should also report any pool related accidents or injuries to the local staff within 72 hours of the occurrence. The local office numbers are listed on the back of this newsletter.

Annual Operating Permit

If your annual operating permit (your orange pool sticker) is lost or somehow destroyed, Marquisha Williams in our data management section can help replace the sticker. Marquisha is also the resource to use if you need to notify us about changing your billing or mailing address, contact person, or parent company. This information is needed in order to properly direct invoices and other important mailings. Marquisha can be contacted at 803-898-3540.

Permitting

Pool permitting questions and "change order" information can be obtained from DHEC's pool

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You Can Access It Now!

Web Resources Available to You

The following resources are available to you 24/7 online at www.scdhec.gov/water/html/recreation.html. Our Website exists to serve you. There is anything you suggest to be added or changed, let us know. So, go online and get direct access to the information you need right now!



Law and Regulation

- The State Recreational Waters Act
- Public Swimming Pool Regulation 61-51

Permitting

- Permitting Guidance Document
- Construction Application
- Final Inspection Form
- Change Order Request
- Ventilation Requirements

Compliance

- Routine Inspection Form
- Facility Information Sheet
- Accident Incident Report
- Fee questions
- CPO Information and Class Dates
- Common Pool Questions and Answers
- Issues of the Newsplash Newsletter

Program Contacts

Call or e-mail any of our permitting or compliance staff.

Reliable Resources, continued from p.1

permitting section. Please remember, if you are replacing your pool's original equipment, resurfacing your pool or deck, or modifying the pool from its original permitted design, this section should be notified before the work begins. Shawn Clarke serves as section manager and can be contacted at (803) 898-3544.

Compliance Assistance

Hopefully, you now are armed with the contact information to solve most any pool mystery. If you have a question that doesn't seem to fit in any area listed above, try calling Jim Ridge at (803) 898-4015. He can help with answers to general questions concerning public pool regulations or direct you to the right spot to find an answer.

Website

Don't forget about our website that may have the information needed to answer your pool question. Visit us on-line at www.scdhec.net/water/html/recreation.html or www.scdhec.gov/water/html/recreation.html.

The ABCs of CPOs

Reviewing Certified Pool Operator Requirements

by Jim Ridge, Recreational Waters Compliance

Relying on a SC licensed Certified Pool Operator (CPO) to keep your facility clean and safe for all your swimmers is a key element in any great pool environment. Whether you employ a CPO, use a service company, or are in the pool service industry, there are a few areas that you should pay close attention to about a CPO and your pool.

Licensing

Certified Pool Operators (CPO) must be licensed by the State of South Carolina. National level certifications are certainly important to consider when hiring a CPO, but they are not a substitution, legally or ethically, for a SC CPO license. The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR) issues CPO licenses and maintains certification records. For information on license renewal, testing dates, or address changes, contact LLR at (803) 896-4430.

Pool Log Books

At least one reading must be recorded for each day you are open for swimming, and a CPO must initial the log book at least three times each week. Multiple daily readings are encouraged to better maintain acceptable water quality.

Licensed CPOs and facility managers are now required to maintain their daily water chemistry readings in a bound (meaning that the pages cannot be removed and replaced) and numbered log book. This can be something as simple as a spiral bound notebook, or more complex. Some of the larger pool supply businesses have created bound



pool logbooks for their customers, and the DHEC has books available by request. Whichever method you choose, just remember the pages must be permanently bound with consecutively numbered pages. Three ring binders or other loose records will not be accepted by DHEC staff as official records for the pool.

Pool Rules Sign

When the Pool Regulation was revised in 2003, a requirement was added that specifies the CPO of record conspicuously place their name and certification number on, or adjacent to, the facility pool rules sign. If more than one CPO is used at a given property, then it is suggested that the name most frequently used in the pool's log book be the one posted for public.

Operation

DHEC staff is often asked about temporarily operating a facility without a CPO when the CPO of record leaves abruptly or is no longer servicing the pool. The SC Public Pool Regulation requires that a CPO be involved in pool operation not less than three times per week. No variance is allowed for a vacated operator position. Most commercial pool services can offer short-term contracts for CPO services, and properties commonly "share" pool operators while searching to fill a vacated CPO staff position.

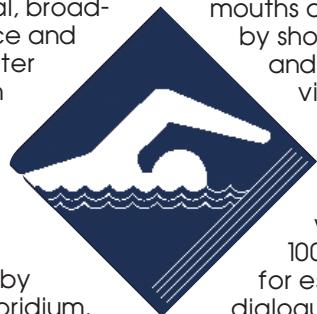
The areas mentioned above all fit together to help insure safe pool operation and a great experience for your pool guest. Take the time to check and you'll be sure to have a swimming facility that builds great memories all summer long!

National Initiative to Promote Healthy Swimming

Information From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming

Leaders from local, state, and federal public health institutions, the aquatics industry and nongovernmental groups convened in Atlanta recently to begin planning the first national, broad-based initiative to reduce and prevent recreational water illnesses associated with swimming pools, lakes and other natural water sources.



Recreational water illnesses can be caused by germs such as Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Shigella, and E. coli that are spread by swallowing contaminated water -- water that appears to be clean but may harbor these infectious organisms. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) asks swimmers to forego swimming when they have diarrhea, which can contaminate the water and lead other swimmers to become ill. In particular, parents of children

in diapers are advised to keep their children out of the pool if they have diarrhea. CDC also recommends that swimmers refrain from getting pool water in their mouths and practice good hygiene by showering before swimming and washing their hands after visiting the restroom or changing diapers.

During the two-day workshop, the nearly 100 participants called for establishing a national dialogue on the risks and solutions for ensuring healthy swimming. Recommendations for a national strategic plan that will include improved training for public health officials and pool staff will be published in a CDC report this summer. The first workshop focused on reducing illnesses associated with swimming pools, but the initiative will also eventually include lakes, rivers and other natural water sources.

Fun Facts

Weight and Volume Measurements of Water

- One gallon weighs 8.3 pounds
- One cubic foot weighs 62.4 pounds
- One cubic foot of water contains 7.5 gallons.

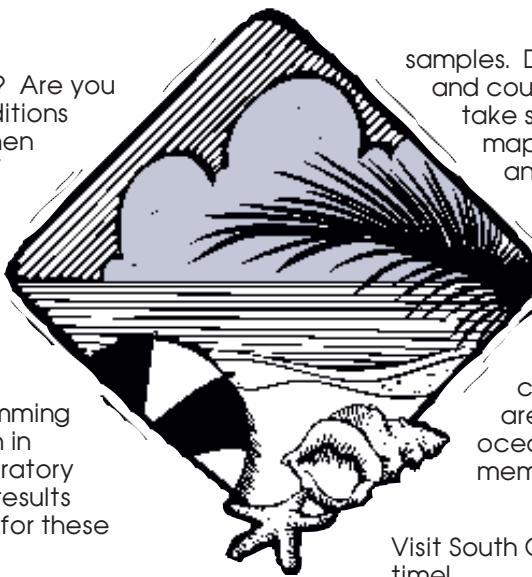
Water Quality in a Larger Pond

Visiting South Carolina Beaches

By Shannon Berry, Beach Monitoring Coordinator

Planning a vacation to the coast? Are you interested in the water quality conditions at your South Carolina Beaches? Then check out www.scdhec.gov/water/html/beachmon.htm

This website will provide you with the latest water quality monitoring data at recreational beaches during the 2005 season. Most of you are used to the water quality sampling conducted at swimming pools. The beach samples are taken in the surf and brought back to a laboratory for analysis. Whereas, your sample results are instantaneous, it takes 24 hours for these



samples. DHEC staff and employees of local and county governments along the coast take samples at all the sites shown on the map at the website. All this is done in an effort to maintain and improve the safety of our coast for our citizens and those from other areas. The monitoring resumed May 1, 2005.

Check out the site. Enjoy the beach. Know that your state, counties, and local communities are working together to make your ocean side vacation fun and safe for all members of the family.

Visit South Carolina's beaches, and have a great time!

EQC District Offices

The local Environmental Quality Control (EQC) Office performs compliance inspections and can provide technical assistance. Check the numbers below for the office in your area.

Appalachia I (Anderson, Oconee)	(864) 260-5569
Appalachia II (Greenville, Pickens).....	(864) 241-1090
Appalachia III (Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union)	(803) 596-3800
Catawba (Lancaster, Chester, York)	(864) 285-7461
Central Midlands (Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield)	(803) 896-0620
Edisto Savannah (Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale)	(803) 641-7670
Low Country (Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton)	(843) 846-1030
Pee Dee (Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield)	(843) 661-4825
Trident (Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester)	(843) 740-1590
Upper Savannah (Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick).....	(864) 223-0333
Waccamaw (Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg)	(843) 448-1902
Wateree (Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon, Calhoun)	(803) 778-1531

DHEC Central Office Contact Numbers

Main Telephone Number.....	(803) 898-4300
Main Fax Number	(803) 898-4215
For questions concerning construction permits and change orders, call Shawn Clarke.....	(803) 898-3544
For questions concerning program policies and compliance issues, call Jim Ridge	(803) 898-4015
For questions concerning operating permit fees and address changes, call Marquisha Williams	(803) 898-3540

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www.dhec.sc.gov/water/html/recreration.htm
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